3: Savonnet--10 E-5 (no date) 1955 MS37 Senegal MS37
Serer FA32

/328/

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361
137

Fig. 3. Tiali, entrance of the village: in the foreground, the harvest of millet in stacks; in the background, some permanent houses with a corrugated-metal roof.

15: Mauny--1 E-5 (1955) 1955 MS37 Senegal MS37

/72/

On March 15, 1955, the I.F.A.N. /Institut Français d'Afrique Noire/ was informed by the administration of the Collège Technique d'Industrie at Fann of the discovery, by students of this establishment, of human skeletons inside a baobab located between this school and the Mandel rest home, at the edge of the Médina of Dakar (1). The next day we went

1. Discovery announced in the Paris-Dakar of March 22, 1955. February 19 was given erroneously.

to the spot and returned from there on March 19.

This baobab, called "Bok," rises in the middle of a former garden. It is of fine size: 15 meters high, 18.50 meters in circumference, or nearly six meters in diameter (Fig. 1). The trunk is hollow and forms a nearly circular chamber, 3.50 meters in diameter by six meters high, connected to the outside by three orifices: one on the east at ground level, 60 centimeters high by 45 wide, through which there is access to the interior; a sort of dormer window, 0.35 by 0.25 of a meter, on the north face, /73/ 75 centimeters above the ground; and, in the ceiling of the interior cavity, a slit one meter long by about 0.30 of a meter wide (Fig. 2).

Inside, the ground is composed of brownish earth mixed with sand and many human bones. The upper layer had already been excavated by students desirous of procuring skulls for themselves. The first time, we took away the bones found on the surface, not having the means to make excavations. When we came back two days later with the necessary equipment, we noticed that meanwhile new borings and samplings had been made by the students; thus this time it was wise to remove /Fig. 1 appears here/ all the osteological material possible, without being able to proceed with methodical excavations.

We therefore rescued all that we could; the skeletons were tangled up in the most extraordinary fashion without any attempt at orientation. The bodies had, obviously been thrown down

/73 cont./

pell-mell. The skulls appeared with the face turned up, down, or to one side. The piling at certain points was hard to believe: in a single space of 80 by 60 centimeters and a depth of 40 centimeters, nearly 20 skulls, without counting other bones, were found! 172 766

No implements accompanied the skeletons, neither iron bracelets, shell necklaces, nor pottery, as in the burials of the

[137]

Fig. 1. The baobab Bok (north side). The persons are standing in front of the entrance hole. In the center, the "dormer window."

beach of Ouakam, for example (2). Only a few basalt pebbles

2. /Monod, Th./ "En attendant l'homme fossile /While awaiting fossil man/," Dakar, Notes Afr., No. 2, April 1939, pp. 8-9; Corbeil, R., Mauny, R., Charbonnier, J., "Préhistoire et Protohistoire de la presqu'île du Cap Vert et de l'extrême

/37/

During the dry season the ground appears bare, but with the first rains it is covered with a lusty vegetation, and it is principally the Gramineae that thus again adorns with verdure this land previously so desolate. S 137

I. -- Gramineae: Food Crops

The petit mil /small millet/, mil chandelle or penicillaire /candle or penicillate millet/ (Pennisetum), is native to Africa. It is also cultivated in India; undoubtedly it was at the time of the slave trade that it was introduced into America. This is the early small millet, or souna of the Wolof. The souna must be sown at the time of the first rains. It shoots up promptly; it grows well in the light, sandy soils (groundnut soils). After the 15th of August it begins to ripen, and one can already eat the unripe ears roasted. When it begins to push out of the ground, the Senegalese, and especially the Sérère /Serer/, sow beans between the rows; this is the volet (Phaseolus vulgaris), which will be eaten as green beans from the 15th of August on. The souna root is regarded by the Africans as a poison and, according to them, might be one of the causes of sleeping sickness. S 243 W [243] S [252] S [244] S [753]

Another variety of small millet is the sanio of the Wolof, late millet or bearded millet (Penicillaria spicata). This is a late variety of small millet with the ears covered with very strong beards, which, entering the eyes of birds, prevents them from eating it. It is said that it gives sottiete (eye ailments). The sanio grows in heavy soils. It is sown during the rainy season and harvested at the end of it, at the same time as groundnuts. W [243] S [753]

The gros mil /great millet/, or basi of the Wolof, requires a heavy and clayey soil. It ripens much later than the souna and can be cultivated in the middle of the rainy season. Sometimes it can even be planted again toward the end of the winter season when one sees that the first sowings have failed. The great millet, or basi, is sorghum (Sorghum sudanense). W [243]

Millet reduced to flour and granulated is called "couscous." S 262

/37 cont./

This is the most common preparation, but the native cuisine is acquainted with a host of others. The couscous is light, refreshing, and very nourishing. S 262

Millet is also given to horses. Basi is used the most in this practice, but souna gives them more vigor, although heating them up more. S 231

The Africans, by making millet germinate and putting it in water to boil for several days, obtain a kind of invigorating beer (pouh in Wolof), but one which, if taken in great quantities, produces a very heavy drunkenness. Millet, just like maize, fattens animals quickly, especially poultry. S W 273 S 231

Sorghum is a plant widely cultivated in Senegal. It is necessary to accustom the Senegalese farmer as rapidly as possible to replacing the ordinary variety by that of the sweet sorghum, that is, the saccharatum variety, which would have the advantage of giving sugar and grain. This saccharatum variety is utilized a great deal in the United States for the production of sugar. Then a sugar refinery would be created, which would be one more source of wealth for this country, wealth all the more appreciable because the African is fond of delicacies and a great consumer of sugar (mint tea, Moorish coffee, and infusions). S 243 S [493] [263] [272]

Rice. It is cultivated in Senegal in damp places, on the edges of marigots /watercourses/, in Sine, in Casamance, and at the mouth of the river (Richard-Toll, etc.). A large number of varieties is known, some of which grow in relatively dry and high places; black rice is one of them.

The African rice is Oryza glaberrima, but wild rice grows by itself; this is Oryza latifolia (punctata and sylvestris). The native rice is much more in demand by the Africans and often even by the Europeans than foreign rice. African cooks excel in preparing rice in all kinds of ways. S [137] S 262

Rice is emollient, soothing, very nourishing, and not at all binding or constipating as is sometimes thought. It also gives a beer by fermentation. Rice water renders great service in dysentery, as a beverage, and for bathing. Rice water is also a cooling drink for feverish and inflammatory ailments. Finally, rice powder is useful as an absorbent for skin diseases. S 273 757 [272] [515]

/71 cont./

361 reaches the summit of the plateau.

[133 137] The landscape which one then discovers seems more open: few trees or none at all; only a shrubby vegetation in the form of brush from which some baobab tops emerge. In the background there gradually appears the light color of the first houses of Thiès. The contrast between the green foliage of the city and the surrounding countryside, bare and yellow, blinding with light, is striking, especially in the dry season.

The aerial photograph, or better still the flight, makes this contrast appear even sharper. The city, with roughly triangular outlines and divided into large patches of geometrical squares flecked with innumerable dark spots of green foliage, stands out particularly sharply against the grey and deserted bush of the surroundings. The presence of an urban center on this almost unpopulated plateau seems strange, and one might wonder what reasons caused this not very hospitable site to be retained for the establishment of a relatively important city?

1. The History of Thiès

361 133 [104 443] 1. The site.

The plateau on which the escale (1) has been built

1. "Escale" here means a place where caravans rested after the halt of the day's journey and where small-scale trade was carried on; by extension, a village or city-market generally located on a railway.

slopes slightly toward the east, while its western face forms a steep slope. Plateau and slope belong to geological formations of the same date as those of the Cape Verde Peninsula 135 and consist principally of limestone from the end of the Secondary/Mesozoic/ subsequently overlaid by a ferruginous shell. It is probable that the eastern section rose up and the western one sank in the Tertiary.

18: Savonnet--16 E-5 (ca. 1955) 1956 MS37 Senegal MS37
/Between pp. 80 and 81./

342
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493
363
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Plate XI

A. Thiès. Quarter of Derrière-la-voie-ferrée. Juxtaposition of houses of mud covered with sheet metal, sheet metal, and of straw.

346

B. The site of one of the oldest mosques of Thiès: quarter of Takhikao.

20: Seck--16 U-5 (no date) 1961 MS37 Senegal MS37

/Between pp. 380-381/ Plate XXII

363
493
•137

A. The avenue Blaise-Diagne.

363
137

B. A street in the old Médina. Street 13, Corner 6.
Photo. Assane Seck.

22: Winterbotham et al. K-4 (no date) 1944 MS37 Senegal MS 37

most striking topography. In spite of this, there are few wide horizons, for much of the surface is covered with high bush. [133] [137]

The Coastal Belt

The Cape Verde peninsula protects the south of the coast from the Canary current and there is a marked contrast between the smooth sandy shoreline to its north and the muddy estuaries to its south. From St. Louis to Dakar no rivers reach the sea. Behind the dunes which back the coast is a depression into which, baulked of their normal goal, many small seasonal streams empty themselves. This depression is marshy during and shortly after the rains, and at certain places shallow lakes persist. A wider and more permanent area of swamps lies east of St. Louis. It is formed by distributaries of the Senegal and replenished each year by its flood. Lake Guiers is a large perennial sheet of water at the eastern edge of this marshland.

The Interior Plain

North and east of the railways and south and west of the great curve of the Senegal there is a broad Tertiary plain. This is, in effect, a southward extension of the Sahara, and, like that of Mauritania, its surface is formed of low fixed dunes and shallow clay depressions. The general direction of these features is north-east and south-west. Immediately west of Thiès is a prominent line of hills running north and south. It is formed by an outcrop of Lower Eocene strata dipping eastward, and it is covered by the Forest of Thiès. For most of the year the rather friable top soil is dry, but the depressions become bands of swamp for a few months. Across this general alinement of relief two major valleys run from east to west. One is that of the Ferlo, which flows into Lake Guiers, and the other is that of the Nielloumolé and the Maouré, which are the upper sections of the Sine. The general pattern is edged by the flood plain of the Senegal and its subsidiary channels. The longest of these latter breaks off just below Diorbivol and does not rejoin the main stream until below Podor. It encloses the Île à Morfil, which averages 8 miles wide and is over 300 miles long. Most of the plain is covered with thornland or poor grass-woodland, but much of the land in the extreme south-west is highly cultivated. [137] [134] [137] [311]

The South

In the Casamance Territory relief is slightly more varied. The valleys are flat and annually flooded, but the country between rises

22:Winterbotham et al. K-4 (no date) 1944 MS37 Senegal MS 37

river is a sandy bar which sometimes prevents entry by ships for several weeks on end. After this the coast stretches south-south-westwards in a gentle curve of sandy beach. There are dunes along the shore, and, inland from them, the marshy depression already described on p. 397. There are very few villages and, indeed, very few landmarks of any kind. Seventy-four miles from the mouth of the Senegal the village of Kayar is perceptible from the sea. It is connected to Rufisque (17 miles) by a colonial road, and immediately south of it is Lake M'Baouar, which is seldom or never without water. After Kayar the coast trends more definitely south-west. Lake Retba, whose north-eastern end is 6½ miles from Kayar, is a permanent salt lake fed by the sea. There are other lakes and swamps behind the littoral dunes. On the coast itself stands another village, Cambérène, which is 22½ miles from Kayar and behind which rise the Petites Mamelles. These are three grey, isolated, sandy knolls, and they mark the beginning of the Cape Verde peninsula (Fig. 48).

The Cape Verde Peninsula and Goree Bay

Yof island (Plate 108), 3½ miles west of Cambérène, stands off the village (Plate 109) of the same name. The beach on the mainland is accessible to surf-boats in all weathers. Just west of the village is a cable hut, where cables are landed, and a tarmac road runs southwards to Ouakam and Dakar. The coast is now more indented, and, 2½ miles south-west of Yof, is a ledge of rocks which joins the shore to Ngor island and behind which is the village of Ngor. Three-quarters of a mile farther west the coast turns almost due south to reach Almadi point (Plate 110), the extreme west of the mainland of Africa. There is a lighthouse on a rock three-quarters of a mile out to sea. Cape Verde itself is 2 miles to the south-east of Almadi point, and behind it are two conical hills called the Mamelles. It was the stunted brushwood on these hills that gave the cape its name. From here to Cape Manuel the coast continues its south-easterly direction, being formed of red cliffs and small sandy beaches. Fann point, 3¾ miles from Cape Verde, marks the north-western end of Madeleines bay, which washes the south-western side of Dakar (p. 444). Some 2 miles south-west are the four Madeleines islands, all of which are rocky and three of which are inaccessible. At Cape Manuel, which is 131 feet high, the coast turns sharply north to form Bernard bay. North of Dakar is Hann bay, and both of these small bays are on the western side of Goree bay. This is generally considered to stretch from Cape Manuel to Cape Rouge, and in it,

22:Winterbotham et al. K-4 (no date) 1944 MS37 Senegal MS37

132 hand, in September at Ziguinchor, for example, the midday mean rises as high as 48 miles, although at that time of year interference from cloud is greatest. Whatever the season, conditions are better at midday and in the evening than in the morning.

Temporary deterioration is caused by sand storms, fog, bush fires, and rain. The first occur during December and January over dunes such as those in Fouta and Ferlo. In them visibility may drop to less than 100 yards and the ensuing haze persists for several days over large areas. Fog is common before and after the rains and is to be expected over the southern estuaries at any time of the year when winds are light. It rarely extends above 500 feet or lasts after 9.00 a.m. Between February and April there is local interference from the smoke of bush fires, which rises 2,000 or 3,000 feet. In the wet season heavy rain naturally causes temporary deterioration. At this season also low cloud often blots out the tops of the spurs of Fouta Jalon.

Swell and Surf

133 Details of swell at Dakar are given in Appendix II, and they may be taken as typical of conditions along the whole of the coast of the colony. On beaches farther north there is slightly more north-westerly swell and on those to the south rather more from the south-west. Heavy seas are rare.

Surf, on the other hand, is everywhere heavy. On exposed beaches south of Cape Verde, for instance, rollers sometimes curl in 30 feet of water and break in a depth of 10 feet. Surf is especially dangerous at the mouths of estuaries when a strong ebb-tide is running.

Meteorological Services

654 Dakar is the chief meteorological station in French West Africa, and St. Louis, Tambacounda, and Ziguinchor are also fully equipped for recording both surface and upper air conditions. Their reports [207] are included in the synoptic broadcasts from Dakar, which cover the whole of the west coast. Secondary stations are at Bambey, Kaolack, Linguéré, Podor, and Thiès, whose reports are also included. Twenty-six other places record rainfall.

5. VEGETATION

● 137 Most of the colony falls within two of the main vegetation zones. To the north there is the thornland, while to the south the zone of grass-woodland has two subzones, the Sudan and the Guinea, and

22:Winterbotham et al. K-4 (no date) 1944 MS37 Senegal MS37

one coastal area, the Casamancian. Except in these last two belts the climate is deficient in rainfall, and it is the length of the dry season that controls the distribution of plant communities. 137 ●

Along the coast as far south as the Cape Verde peninsula is the southward extension of the sub-Canarian area, a description of which has been given on p. 320.

The Thornland

The thornland occupies the northern part of the colony from a little north-east of Dakar eastwards to Kidira and northwards to the Senegal. This region, it will be recalled, has a rainfall of from 10 to 20 inches. It is a country of spiny shrubs, especially species of *Acacia*, associated with which are the soapberry tree, the African myrrh, and *Combretum aculeatum*. Many of the trees and shrubs are without leaves during the dry season, but some are evergreen. The natural vegetation in this zone has been much devastated by fire, pasturage, and the over-exploitation of the gum-yielding acacias. [314] On the other hand, annual firing of brushwood and grassland plays a subordinate part in modifying the plant life. The more open nature of both the woody and herbaceous vegetation impedes or prevents fires spreading over great extents of country. Tufted grasses are particularly abundant in the open grasslands between, and even under, the trees and bushes.

The Grass-Woodland

If the Casamancian area be considered as a modification of the Guinea subzone, the grass-woodland may be said to occupy the remainder of the colony. The Sudan subzone is, however, the more important. In the western part of the colony the subzones run north-west to south-east, extend across the Gambia, and then turn almost due west and east. The northward bend in the west is due to oceanic climatic influences, and the modified Casamancian area is similarly due to a greater humidity. The vegetation of the zone as a whole consists of a mixture of trees and grasslands, the former either being spaced in clumps or patches or standing as individuals. The grasslands are continuous over wide areas and are fired regularly in the dry season. This firing of brushwoods and grasslands, together with centuries of heavy cultivation, has highly modified the natural vegetation, especially towards the west. This is especially exemplified by forest destruction in the Guinea subzone. [241]

The vegetation of the Sudan subzone corresponds to an annual

22:Winterbotham et al. K-4 (no date) 1944 MS37 Senegal MS37

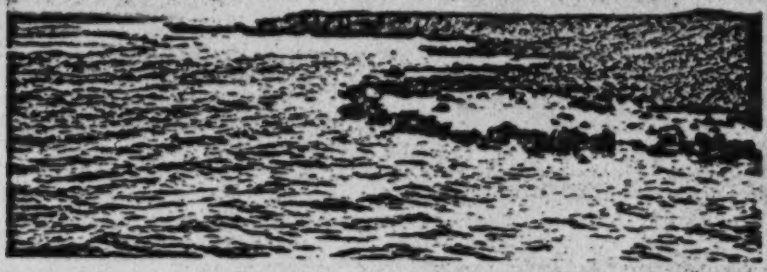
137 rainfall of from 20 to 60 inches. In appearance it is reminiscent of a park or orchard, with well-spaced trees or small clumps of trees projecting well above the herbaceous layer, and the most characteristic trees are from 18 to 45 feet tall. The most frequent in Senegal are the African locust bean, the tallow tree (*Detarium senegalense*), the ginger-bread plum or pomme du cayor (*Parinari macrophylla*), various legumes (*Cassia sieberiana, Entada africana, Acacia sieberiana, Albizzia ferruginea, Prosopis africana, Cordyla africana*, and *Pterocarpus erinaceus*), the Borassus palm (*Borassus aethiopum*), *Combretum glutinosum, Terminalia macroptera, Sterculia setigera, Cola cordifolia*, and the Meni oil tree. Shrubs and climbing woody plants are locally associated with the trees, but plants growing on the trunks and branches are generally absent. Parasites of the mistletoe family, however, are common. Most of the trees lose their leaves at the advent of the dry season. The grasslands consist mainly of grasses of the tribe Andropogoneae.

Excluding the Casamancian area, the Guinea subzone occupies two small regions north-west and south-east of the Gambia. At one time parts of this subzone were covered by dense forests, but to-day
[311] there are only scattered relicts. Much of the country is cultivated, and the rest is subjected to the continued degrading influences of fire, grazing, and shifting cultivation. As a consequence, a degraded brushwood on impoverished soil represents the weed flora of several years' fallow. This is cut down, and the cultivation of ground-nuts
[241] and cereals follows for a period of years; after which the ground is again allowed to go fallow. Many of the weeds are of American or Indian origin.

The Casamancian Area. The Casamancian area (Vol. I, p. 101) is the most tropical part of the colony. The Casamance river and the coastal channels are bordered up to tidal limits by thick mangrove-
[241] woodland. Behind this there are often marshy clearings, now frequently transformed into rice-fields, and stretches of forest communities. Swamp-forests and thickets have screw-pines, palms (*Raphia, Calamus*), and bamboos. There are also frequent clumps of oil palm. In the remnants of high forest legumes are abundant and include species of *Afzelia, Dialium, Daniellia, Erythrophloeum, Pentaclethra, Parkia*, and *Acacia*. Noteworthy trees of the forest patches are a dragon's tree (*Dracaena*), the pattern wood (*Alstonia congensis*), the African teak (*Chlorophora excelsa*), and the silk-cotton tree (*Ceiba pentandra*). Many of them have a height of more than 60 feet.

22 Winterbotham et al. K-4 (no date) 1944 MS37 Senegal MS 37

133



110. *Almadi point*

137

111. *A baobab tree*

[facing p. 416]

22: Winterbotham et al. K-4 (no date) 1944 MS37 Senegal MS 37

363
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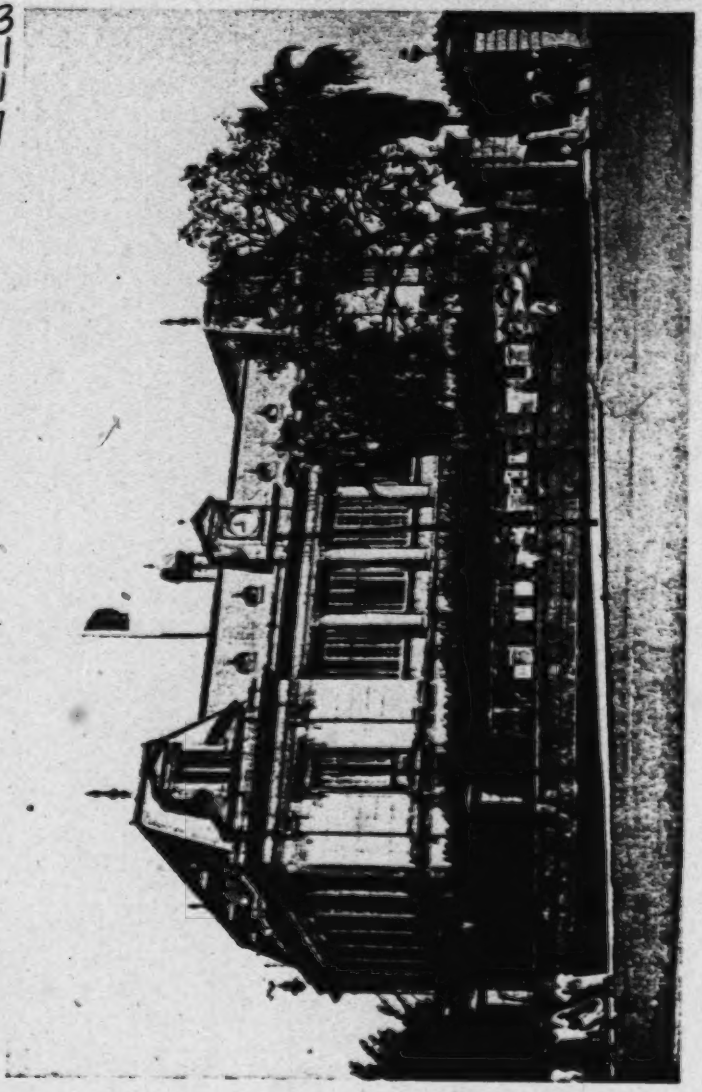

117.—*Dakar: the Mairie*

[facing p. 135]

/94 cont./

133 On the right bank of the Saloum, these valleys form a more or less continuous string of ponds during the winter.

One of these valleys bears the name of Bao-Bolon; it is several kilometers wide and is the outlet of the region of Birkelane-Kaffrine. The natives report that 50 years ago [505] cutters from Gambia were able to go up this affluent as far as a passage between Nioro-Rip and Médina, about 20 kilometers to the north upstream from the river.

133 134 In the lower valley of the Saloum, along the marigots, one finds the "tannes," marshy depressions covered with water during the winter, but where, during the dry season, the mud is covered with a layer of sand, which, with saline efflorescences, hardens to the point of constituting a rather firm soil. Here one finds a composite of lime and salt; this is the "poto-poto," feared by travelers, motorists, and pedestrians, who can very easily be swallowed up by it. Between Sangomar and the Gambia, the marine affluents of the Diomboss and the Bandiala and the marigots of Dionouar, Toubacouta, Sokone, Messira, and Djinnack are disclosed.

The upper valley of the Saloum, oriented from east to west, presents less sandy soil with outcrops of laterite. Some undulations of the terrain are more pronounced toward the west, in the region of Pakalla Mandack and Niani-Ouli, where the ravines are at times very deep. The plain and the bottom of [137] the depressions are wooded or covered with a very flourishing vegetation.

The northern part of the circle, which is traversed by the valley of the Sine, is made up of sandy soil, very propitious for the cultivation of groundnuts. This valley, 133 formerly watered by streams, has been entirely overrun by the /95/ sea. This drying up of the region is moreover characteristic of almost all of Senegal. One sees it there in the diminution of the volume of certain rivers, a diminution that sometimes, as in the Cayor, Ferlo, Baol, Sine, and Saloum, extends to the total disappearance of the water.

Moreover, one notes that, as a result of the evaporation of the waters of the Saloum, the salt content of these waters is greater than that of the ocean.

/101 cont./

134 everywhere the terrain is suitable for the cultivation of groundnuts, except in Bas-Saloum.

137 A very dense, thorny, and shrubby vegetation grows in the sandy soil. This is the region of the cades (Acacia albida). In the silico-argillaceous lands of the south and east, the vegetation is more vigorous; one still finds there at the present time interesting forest stocks, vestiges of the great forests of former times. These groves are on the way to disappearing as a result of the abuses of clearing and of the unfortunately too frequent fires. The forests of Patako, between Messira and Coular, and of Dasilamé, between Nioro and Médina, which contain many hardwoods, Gambian mahogany, vène, and hire, are to be protected.

II. Administrative Organization

634 Territorial divisions. The two large native commands of Sine and Saloum have been eliminated, and the title of Bour, which was only honorific in nature, has ceased to exist legally.

632 634 The circle is divided into three major administrative subdivisions:

1st, Subdivision of Sine, chief town Fatick;

2nd, Subdivision of Bas-Saloum, with Foundiougne as the chief town;

3rd, Subdivision of Saloum Oriental, chief town Kaolack.

An administrator is at the head of the circle, and each subdivision is commanded by an official of the corps of administrators or of the corps of civil services.

632 Divided among these three subdivisions are 19 cantons or native commands, each /102/ of which is headed by a canton chief.

The subdivision of Saloum Oriental has 11 cantons:

Kaolack-Laghem,
Kahone,
Diokoul-Gandiaye,
Gossas,
Niom-Rip,
Nioro-Rip,

23: Aujas--32 G-5 (no date) 1929 MS37 Senegal MS37

137

Plate II

A Gambian mahogany tree on the Latmingué road.

133

The mouth of the Saloum at Dionouar.

/44 cont./

The city is made up of 150 houses, well built and of 361
attractive appearance. They are embellished with exterior
galleries supported by pilasters.

I noticed the former seat of government (9) where the

9. At the back of the present square garden of the rue du Port. A commemorative plaque indicates the site of the former seat of government occupied by de Boufflers.

chevalier de Boufflers, so well known for his light poetry, [175]
lived. Governor of Senegal from 1786 to 1789, he preferred
to stay at Gorée rather than at Saint-Louis.

Today his house is falling into ruins. In front stretches
a splendid esplanade planted with tall trees. In the back, an
abandoned garden. There can still be seen a long avenue of
mimosas, coconut trees, and various other species of palm
trees, which the chevalier took pleasure in cultivating at great [137]
expense on this volcanic rock devoid of vegetable soil.

At the summit of the island, the citadel (10). It, too,

10. The present Castel /castle/, fortified anew under the Second Empire.

is falling into ruins. Without an enclosure, without even a
gate, the European cemetery (11) stretches at its feet. Graves 764

11. Nothing is left of it today.

lined up side by side inform the traveler that, on this soil, once
spewed forth by fire (12), today devoured by a torrid sun and

12. The high part of Gorée (the Castel) is of volcanic origin.

s' [i.e. Gorée -- Analyst]